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THE WEALTH OF THE SOUTH.

The southern states are not only coming into their own in the shape of material growth and prosperity, but are talking about it very convincingly. No longer is their light hidden under a bushel. The press of the south is telling the rest of the world what has been done in the last generation and the story is convincing many of the shrewdest judges that south of Mason and Dixon's line lies the land of opportunity.

In considering the progress the south has made in the last generation it must be remembered that its people were impoverished by war and unable to get credit in the money centers of the country and the rest of the world. The tide of immigration never flowed freely in its direction and for many years the burden of taxation was felt severely because it lacked industrial enterprises that would benefit by high tariffs. Slowly but surely the south made its way into the industrial field and now it competes on even terms with the north and east in many important lines of manufacturing. As a producer only of raw materials for others' use the south made little progress, but, with the introduction of manufacturing it has become rich almost overnight. The relation of the one to the other will always be a matter of dispute among theorists, but the hard fact that factories and widely distributed wealth have come to the south together is the argument that convinces practical men.

For fifteen years after the war was over the south stood still. Most of its factories were of merely local importance and it had to sell its raw materials for what others would pay. In 1880 the total capital invested in manufactories was $329,000,000; in 1911 it was $3,397,000,000, a gain of almost a thousand per cent. In 1880 the south sold nearly all its cotton crop of 5,761,000 bales; its mills taking only about 26,000 bales; but in 1911 its mills consumed 270,000 bales out of a 1910-1911 crop of more than 12,000,000 bales. Its production of cotton had grown one hundred and ten per cent and its mill consumption nearly a thousand per cent. In cottonseed, practically a waste product in 1880, the south has discovered a mine of wealth. The total value of the ouput of the cottonseed mills in 1880 was less than seven million dollars; and in 1911 it was $145,000,000, a gain of more than two thousand per cent.

Much has been said recently of the growth of the coal and iron business of the south. The value of mineral products has risen from some eighteen million dollars in 1880 to $370,000,000 in 1911. The most striking gain has been made in petroleum, the production of which has risen from 179,000 barrels in 1880 to 85,000,0000 barrels in 1911. The south now has some of the largest producing wells in the country, and Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana must give place to the south and to California.

One of the most spectacular developments of very recent years is the mining of sulphur in the Mississippi delta. Hitherto unsuspected deposits of sulphur were discovered in exploratory boring for petroleum, and a method of mining absolutely new to the world was developed to meet the conditions. Live steam is forced down into the sulphur far under the surface, melting it and forcing it to the top in a highly purified state ready for the market.

Fertilizers have become one of the leading southern products, and the farmers of that section use them more wisely and liberally than those of any other section of the country. Great deposits of rich phosphate rock exist in Florida and other states and the ouput of phosphate has grown from 190,000 tons to 2,700,000 tons in thirty-one years. Much of it is exported, and it is feared that this great source of natural wealth is being sacrificed at too low a price. Germany conserves her potash deposits and Chile her nitrate beds, and these countries exact from the rest of the world "all the traffic will bear." The United States possesses a practical monopoly of phosphate rock, but is letting it go for what it will bring. It is doubtful if the south is to be congratulated on exporting so much phosphate. It is one of the essential elements in all commercial fertilizers, the others being potash and nitrogen, and the south cannot raise cotton or tobacco without fertilizers.

The south is also cutting into its forest reserves very fast. Something should be done to preserve an adequate forest reserve of long-leaf pine. Big figures of lumber production look fine but may mean wastefulness rather than continuing prosperity.

To cut and sell timber worth nearly half a billion of dollars in a single year sounds impressive, but it will be dear money if the south loses its naval stores trades in the end.

Today the south produces ninety per cent or thereabouts of all the rosin and turpentine in the world, and this is a natural monopoly of which the southeastern states cannot be deprived in any conceivable way except by destroying the pine. Pine grows in many parts of the world, but the pine of the north produces little gum and the climate is against the industry of other countries. France alone produces rosin and turpentine in any considerable volume, and the French output is hardly a factor in the markets of the world in comparison with that of the southern states.

Turpentine and rosin are indispensable in many industries and new uses for them are being found every day. Synthetic camphor of fair grade and a good substitute for genuine Formosa camphor in many cases can be produced from turpentine, and good varnish can be made out of rosin with the help of China wood oil. The south can enjoy a practical monopoly of the naval stores trade of the whole world as long as the pine forests stand. The south is now prosperous enough to conserve its natural wealth and make its pine woods at least a sure source of revenue for ages to come.

THE POLITICAL FARCE-COMEDY.

Blind to the real nature of the thing they have been doing, the progressives of the republican party in this country have staged an elaborate political farce-tragedy for the entertainment of the American people. Until the past few days it promised to be a psychological drama based upon the pathetically impossible ambitions of a man who yearns to perform preposterous social miracles for the banishment of all the ills and seeming ills that afflict the body public.

Now, by a stage trick which would leave the great audience gasping (as it was intended to) if knowledge of the playwright had not led to expectation of some such thing, the mournful hero in whom the public at least could sympathize is rudely thrust from the stage and his place taken by a character of the buffo type in vogue on the operatic stage of a hundred and fifty years ago—a sort of exaggerated "Barber of Seville."

With Theodore Roosevelt showing his teeth in the center of the progressive stage, Robert M. La Follette almost has been lost sight of, but little by little this pathetic figure will creep back from the limbo of discarded political catspaws into which the men he believed to be his friends have thrust him, and cast a melancholy shadow over the screaming burlesque, "Tendering a Nomination, or Trying to Come Back," starring Theodore the political cuckoo.

In the midst of the beating of tom-toms and war drums by certain governors and the press supporting their activities, intended to herald what was to have been a startling announcement, La Follette, shocked and scarcely yet believing in the full extent of the treachery of which he has been made the victim, sent a grieving message to a San Francisco evening paper formerly pledged to him, declaring himself still a candidate for the republican nomination.

There are signs that La Follette, in spite of the shock to his mind, will prove a formidable obstacle to the propress of the conspirators. La Follette is justly indignant. Taking himself and his campaign seriously, he estimated at their face value all the protestations of friendship and support from men that a wiser man would not have trusted for one moment.

There are those who will feel no sorrow for the deluded man, saying it but serves him right for lending himself to the schemes and purposes of a gang of political thimble-riggers who were seeking immediate notoriety and the distant hope of a presidency, vice presidency and the appointive offices which these would bestow. There always is something pathetic, however, about the betrayal of perfect human trust, no matter how thoughtlessly it may have been bestowed, and this, in relation to La Follette, injects the element of tragedy into the howling political farce in which Theodore Roosevelt has assumed the leading role.

"Big business shivers every time I speak about it," said Colonel Roosevelt in his Columbus address. Big business did not tremble when the Colonel invited E. H. Harriman to the White House, remarking, "You and I are practical men and understand each other." It did not shiver when he authorized the steel trust to absorb the Tennessee Coal and Iron company. It did not shiver when the representatives of the trusts met in conference in 1904, and subscribed to a big fund to finance the Colonel's campaign. It did not shiver more recently when the Colonel attacked the Sherman anti-trust law and denounced its enforcement as injuring and interfering with legitimate business. In the very speech in which the Colonel is represented big business as shivering in fear of him, he defended trust organizations as necessary to modern industrial and commercial progress. Just now the Colonel is Wall street's favorite candidate for president. That shows how much big business dreads him. The Colonel is the Punch of political demonology.

Roosevelt is often very inconsistent. For instance, he said at Columbus that judges ought to render decisions in accordance with the dictates of their consciences, and then said they should go out and find what the people think about it. The conscience of the judge may conflict with the opinion of the crowd—in that case, we suppose the judge would have to smother his conscientious scruples. But there is the law in the meantime, which the judge is elected and sworn to uphold and enforce—what of that? Must that go into the discard along with the judicial conscience?

Remember that if your husband refuses the third cup of coffee tomorrow morning it may mean that he wants corned beef and cabbage on the following evening. If he says that under no circumstances will he accept the third cup, you had better fill up the coffee pot.

WILL INSPECT TRANSPORT TO DETERMINE CONDITION

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Capt. Basil L. Lenior, attached to the army signal corps cable ship Burnside, has been detailed to inspect the army transport Crook to determine its fitness to replace the Burnside temporarily. The Burnside will probably have to be laid up soon for repairs to her boilers, and the signal corps wants a vessel to which cable machinery may be transferred for emergency work.

Big auction sale at New York Bazaar tomorrow morning. Everything must be sold. 3-1-1t

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A house to rent? Try a Bonanza "want ad."